

Responses from Hosts to Follow-Up Letter of Thanks February 2018

Shambhala Buddhist

Hi Clement,

It was great to have everybody here. It was a really wonderful evening. I hope that everyone feels welcome to come back soon. We have soup every Wednesday!

Best,

Richard

Richard Vogler, Programs Manager, Halifax Shambhala Centre

Universalist Unitarian

Hi Clement...

Thank you for the letter and for all you do for Interfaith Harmony. We were surprised by the turn-out for the service. We failed to get a head count, but there were at least 50 guests.

There will not likely be anyone in our church office tomorrow. There is no need to drop off a hard copy of the letter. I have printed one out and I will share it with our Board at our monthly Board meeting tomorrow night.

Norm

Rev. Norm Horofker

Brahma Kumaris

Thank you Clem. I hope it was a beautiful week. And the library worked well.

Warm wishes from warm India

Judy

Shaar Shalom Synagogue

Dear Clem,

Thank you and the WIHW committee for your thoughtful note and kind words of gratitude.

We feel very blessed to have been able to participate again this year and thank you for this special opportunity for us and our community.

Blessings,

Raysh

Muslim Ummah Mosque

Dear Clement

Peace be upon you

Thank you so much for your kind words. With your help the day was great. I wished that you would have been with us. I think We should arrange this kind of events more and more.

See you soon

Sincerely

Abdallah Yousri

Imam of Ummah Mosque

Taoist Tai Chi Centre

My message to Steve of Tai Chi as an example:

Hi Steve,

I am sending a word of thanks for you and for Bonnie and Paul and your community for your hosting World Interfaith Harmony Week visitors again. I will also drop off a hard copy of the letter for posting at your Centre.

So when the group shared on Monday, it was grand to hear one of the participants say he learned "he has a body"!

I trust all is well with you.

Clement

Steve's reply:

Thank you Clement,

I'm glad the event went well all across the city. It was a pleasure to again receive the very interested and respectful guests.

This year my goal was to attend a couple of the other communities' events, but of course life happens and between my duties with Fung Loy Kok, work and family it just wasn't possible.

Best wishes for the new year.

Steve Dingwall of Taoist Tai Chi

Sikh Gurdwara

I dropped by the Gurdwara in the early afternoon and was pleased to find that the President of the Maritime Sikh Society happened to be there – Pyara Singh Randhawa. I had spoken to him on the phone in January as I learned that the Society changes leadership at the end of the year. Kim spoke of a conversation with the secretary of the Society, Balbir Singh, on the day of the visit to their space. Pyara and I shook hands at least three times in a very pleasant meeting. He was appreciative of the occasion to host visitors and underscored that guests are welcome every Sunday. With the letter in hand, he indicated the bulletin board behind him and said he would post the letter of thanks there.

Resurrection Lutheran

I dropped the envelope off to Pastor Kimber McNabb in the evening before the Ash Wednesday service. She appreciated being able to host: she had prepared an extended bulletin for the service with detailed directions to help people follow a rather complex service book, she enjoyed answering the questions of guests during coffee hour, and she even asked if World Interfaith Harmony would return to their church in 2019. I explained that we have a lengthy list of Christian traditions to visit in future years. Last Sunday, in the announcements, she held up the letter of thanks and indicated that she would be posting it in the fellowship hall.

Following is a sample of the letters (which were in both .pdf form as an attachment to individualized emails and a printed/envelope piece of snail mail).



International Award Winner

February 14, 2018

Dear Rabbi Raysh and the People at Shaar Shalom:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your community for participating in the recent observance of World Interfaith Harmony Week. This was the fifth year that we have observed the Week in Halifax, and a total of thirteen communities opened their doors and hearts to receive guests. As participants in the Interfaith Engagement program (those wearing the blue travel pouches) met this week, they used words like “joyful,” “unity,” “deeper connection,” “an adventure,” “affirming the kindness and goodness of others,” “feeling welcome to this city,” etc. to articulate their experience of visiting Sacred Spaces like yours.

We appreciate your willingness to prepare for the Week and to continue to refine how to welcome visitors. Thank you also for naming hosts so we could prepare identifying tags to help orient the guests. We thank your hosts – Rabbi Jonah, Sherri, Zak, and Ben – and all who welcomed and talked with the guests. We value your participation in preparing additional pieces of information for the website: updating the Guide for Guests, and writing a description of your faith tradition with comments on your community’s history. We are so honoured to work with you and your community, and we applaud your willingness to go well beyond our imagination in welcoming participants.

We discover each year high levels of interest and enthusiasm in exploring the rich diversity of the faith communities in our city. We know that their excitement is contagious and will expand the number of participants next year.

Again, a sincere thank you to you and your community for promoting interfaith harmony in Halifax. You continue to exceed our expectations.

With gratitude,

Clement Mehlman for the Interfaith Harmony Halifax Team (ihhalifax.ca)
cmehlman@dal.ca